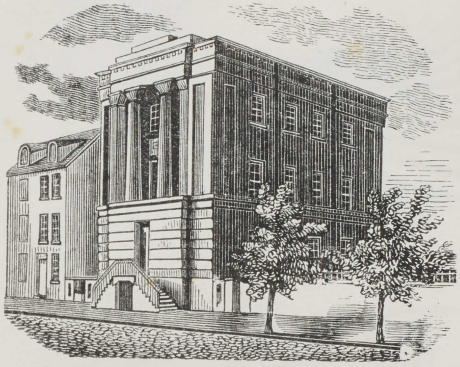
AN ESSAY ON

Fever,

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF THE



HOMŒOPATHIC MEDICAL COLLEGE

OF PENNSYLVANIA,

On the Thirty-first day of January, Eighteen Hundred and Fifty-seven.

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Of New Orleans Louisiana

Similia Similibus
Curantur

Fever

I can not say that I am in favor of Thesis writing for I do not know what I am expected to write. Is it my own experience? I have none, if the experience of others, I think it more suitable for every person to give his own experience. Must it be the fancies of my own imagination, the time would be better spent in storing up some practical and important truthes, As it has to be I will choose Fever for my subject, because I think it a very important one. And if by the Vulcan's aid I succeed in diminishing the heat (or fire) I will be satisfied. Well do I know the importance of my subject, and deep is the conviction of my inability to do it justice. So my remarks shall be very brief.

No disease to which the human family is
heir has occupied so much of man's time
and attention as this. Go back to the infancy
of the Medical Science, and we find the
most eminent eminent minds trying
to define fever. Ancient Hypotheses
have have been overthrown, and modern
Theories without number have been erected
upon their ruins, which with lightning
speed have numbered their days and expired.
Why was this? because they were false.
Those minds that we love to honor for
their gigantic thought and depth of research,
saw the ravages it was committing upon
their fellow men, saw them swept from
the land in thousands by its desolating
hand, and with anguish of spirit sought
to combat with it, so they of course had to

have some principle to guide them in the administration of their drugs, but unfortunaly they took a one sided view. They saw the disease, but did not give due regard to the relation their remedies sustained to it. Thus it was left for Hanneman to discover the true law of its cure after more than two thousand years handling. Then is it strange that this disease ~~that~~ has spited so much interest in all other writers should be the cause of its discovery? We find one author proving fever to be a pure Sanguineous disease, another a Nervous, and the third that Gastro Enteritis is the cause of all febrile phenomena, and many other theories that it is useless to mention. Yet no one will deny but that these speculations have been the import of good.

Where would Medical Sciene now be if man had never speculated on disease! Buried in oblivion (for every new idea showed man was becoming what he was intended to be, a free thinker) I do not intend trying to prove the truth of any one of these theories nor the falacy of another, but will leave this to those who have moore esperience and time than myself at present.

On investigation we find it attacking all parts of the system, all persons irrespective of station, in all countries and at all seasons. In the course of time we may a theory (if there is ever a true one) in accordance with the law Similia Similibus. ✓ The word fever is used in a general sense to designate a peculiar morbid condition of the System common to many diseases.

2d In a special sense to designate diseases individually and collectively. We say of diseases with certain characters that they are fevers, and of each one that is a fever distinguished by some epithet. thus Yellow fever and Typhoid fever. while these epithets show widely different, the word fever signifies that they have the similarity of character that entitles them to the common name.
In a general view it is almost impossible to give in detail all penomena that may occur in all its varieties.
We not only find its general course of action different in different species, but the various funtions are various-ly affected both in degree and character.
I will now try to give characteristics common in ordinary forms of fever.

Omiting those that are peculiar to the different species, Fever is divided into four stages, The Forming Stage which is constituted of the premonitary symptoms which are very various, wearinefs, languor of boddy and mind, dull pain in head, ideas are confused, takes no interest, but feels like he was a burden to himself, muscles feel sore as if bruised dull pain in bones, depression of spirits, loss of appitite, occasional chillinefs, complains of a vague uneasinefs all over the boddy, nausea, All of these symptoms are not universally present, and the period of their duration differs very much, from an hour to several days or weeks.

Cold Stage. The above stage may immerge so gradually into this that it is

impossible to decide where it does commence. Sometimes it is abrupt paping as it were from a state of health, generally the chilly sensation is attended with a reduction of the temperature of the surface. rigors. chattering of teeth. thirst. tremors even to shaking with coldness although the patient may be near a fire or wraped in blankets. he may the sensation of heat while to others the surface is cold. especially of the extremeties, or he may feel both hot and cold or alternate flashes of heat and cold. The preceding pains become much worse particularly in back. loins. lower extremities and very often in the head. the pulse is weak and often more frequent. the capilaries of the surface are contracted producing a paleness, while the internal organs are congested. the secretory function is suspended.

This condition may last a longer or shorter time, and if the disease is very malignant reaction may never take place.

Hot Stage. I believe this is at no time ushered in as suddenly as the former sometimes is, but the chill passes off by degrees and the surface gradually becomes warm then hot and dry. the capillaries are congested & the surface is red. the internal organs are not so much congested as they previously were. pulse quicker stronger & fuller. respiration short & hurried. the heat is generally felt first about the face & eyes. which become congested & red, like the chill there may be at first alternate heat & cold, but the former soon gains the assendency, and is not confined to the surface but pervades the whole system.

The symptoms of the head are aggravated and as it progress there is frequently delerium or coma, restlessness, disturbed sleep or sleep with frightful dreams, great anxiety, feels as if he was burning, the secretions are still deranged, complete loss of appitite, disgust for food and warm drinks, but a desire for cold drinks. At the heighth of this stage the crisis or critical period appears, so called because the disease makes a change either favorable or unfavorable, a gentle perspiration indicates the former, but the latter when colliquative diarhœa or violent hemorrhage appears. This is the commencement of the Declining Stage. The heat begins to subside the skin becomes moist, the pains of the head and other parts are not so severe. The secretory function is restored, the throat

is moist. the urine & saliva commences to flow but is high colored. the tongue which was coated begins to clear off about the tips & edges, sometimes gradually & at other times in large flakes. the former indicating a more speedy convalescence. the pulse is not so frequent, softer & not so full. the heart action is not so violent. the circulation regains its equilibrium. the surface is not so red. the appetite returns gradually and sometimes becomes voracious. the breathing is natural, spirits are lively and the patient is pronounced convalescent. All of these symptoms are not present in all cases, but are very much diversified. We have seen the favorable termination of fever, but when the declining stage commences with diarrhoea or hemorrhage the patient sinks very rapidly

and unless checked very soon we have ~~low~~
muttering delerium, coma; cold clammy sweat,
coldness of extremities, pulse small & weak
and finally the vital powers fail and death
terminates the contest. These stages are
of different degrees of violence & duration,
sometimes short & violent or of longer duration
and milder, though no more favorable.
A fatal termination may take place in
either stage and at any period of the stage.
So we find the phenomena of fever very
much diversified, so will we find the
species. this is one reason why it should be
of great interest to the medical student,
another reason is its prevalence.
Cause of Fever. Anything that capable
of producing a powerful impression on the
system either local or general. irritation from

a traumatic injury or long continued irritation from any cause may produce general fever depression of spirits from bad news. continued excitement, over exertion. undue exposure to heat or cold. some causes are specific as miasma or contagion, and sometimes there is no perceptible cause.

Fever is generally divided into two classes. Symtomatic dependent on local irritation. Idiopathic of which there are three species. Intermitent. Remitent or Continued. Eruptive. which might be subdivided

Treatment

Fresh air is very essential. the room should be kept at a moderate temperature, and not exposed to the changes of the weather. Great care should also be taken that the diet is easily digested. and

the patient does not eat too much. Farinaceous
diet is best, a little animal food may be
taken when digestion is good. Solid form
is best. Soups and broths being more
difficult to digest. Gelatine is of but little
use having no nourishment. Water
is very beneficial in many cases. Sponging
or washing. wet cloths applied to bad fever
wet sheet or wet sheet pack, affusion
according to circumstances. the temperature
should be pleasant. if cold water is applied
it should be continued untill reaction
will not appear.

Aconite. Nap, where there is general
dry burning heat with thirst, congestion
of blood to the head with flushed face
headaches as if it would burst. pulse
quick and full. respiration short and

hurried. intolerance of light, it acts on persons of full plethoric habit.

Belladonna where Aconite has not given relief either in alternation with it or alone where the head is much congested with rending tearing pains. raving delerium. pulse quick & hard. throbing arteries. surface shining red. throat sore & is very red. breathing short quick irregular and anxious. presure on chest. eyes shining red & fiery.

Hyociamus. when constant delerium danger of Hydrocephalus. spasms, anguish loss of conciousness. Stramonium may be used if Hyos or Bell does not relieve. wild look. haggard expression.

Bryonia and Rhus Toxicoden are very often used alternately, where the fever is of a low grade, with dryness and yellowness of skin, dull drawing pains of limbs, excessive thirst, pains of chest with dry hacking cough, low muttering delirium, constipation, scanty red urine, bitter eructations or vomiting of bilious matter, where an eruption on the surface Rhus is best, but where the eruption has been repelled Bry. Arsenicum where there is still fever, with great debility, coldness of surface, cold clammy sweat, emaciation, watery, yellowish diarhoea with burning, pressure and burning in stomach, burning over whole body Intermittent fever, chillines without thirst, alternate heat and cold heat in throat with

thirst. if no relief Veratrum where pulse low small quick intermitent. Cold sweat is more general. sunken face. coldness over body. watery diarhrea.

China. in Intermitent fever. stretching drawing uneasiness & weariness all over body. heaviness & fullness of lower extremities roaring in ears. with headache. dry lips. thirst. emaciation. bitter stool. induration of Liver & Spleen. Carbo veg.

Cinnes. My Father cured a larg proportion of his cases of intermitente fever for 3 or 4 years while in North Alabama with the 4th dilu he usually gave a dose immediately after the fever. if he did not it did not act so well. it was Tertian & Quartan types principally. Nux vomica & Ipe where there gastric derangement

Pulsatilla during hot stage, Antimonium Cina. Ignatia. Muriatic Acid. Lachesis. Opium. are all good remedies. besides many more.

I am rather in favor of low attenuation say from 3d to 6th. Dose from one an hour to 3 times a day according to the severity of the case. I belive I will close leaving the world as feenish as when I commenced.

Philadelphia
Jan 31st 1857

Yours respectfully
Samuel Winter Angell